IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 9 as follows.

1. (Original) An image processing method comprising:

a step of generating a calibration condition for image forming means, by reading a first chart formed by said image forming means with reading means and generating a calibration condition for said image forming means, based on the data obtained by said reading;

a step of generating a calibration condition for said reading means, using a second chart printed in advance; and

a discrimination step of discriminating said first and second charts;

wherein said discrimination step discriminates whether a chart read in each of said step of generating calibration condition for image forming means and said step of generating calibration condition for image reading means is an appropriate chart.

2. (Original) An image processing method according to claim 1, wherein each of said first and second charts is provided with a mark formed by a color corresponding to a kind of the chart; and

said discrimination step discriminates the color of said mark.

3. (Original) An image processing method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of informing to a user when said chart is discriminated as inappropriate.

4. (Original) An image processing method for generating a calibration condition matching the characteristics of an apparatus based on data obtained by reading a chart, the method comprising steps of:

detecting, from said data, a mark attached to said chart; and

discriminating whether said data are appropriate according to a result of said detection.

5. (Original) An image processing method according to claim 1, further comprising:

informing a user of a fact that the reading position or the resolution in reading said chart is inappropriate, according to a result of said detection.

6. (Original) An image processing method according to claim 5, further comprising:

discriminating whether said chart is skewed according to the result of said detection; and

informing a user of skewed position when said chart is skewed.

7. (Original) An image processing method according to claim 4, further comprising:

informing a user of a fact that a kind of said chart is inappropriate, according to a result of said detection.

8. (Original) An image processing method according to claim 4, further comprising:

judging a direction of said chart according to a result of said detection; and

generating said calibration condition from said detected data according to said direction.

9. (Currently Amended) An image processing method ~~for~~ comprising the steps of:

entering read data obtained by reading a chart printed in advance with reading means; and

generating calibration data for calibrating said reading means based on said read ~~data;~~ data,

wherein said chart is rendered foldable with the printed surface thereof inward and is not printed with a patch in the vicinity of the folding portion, and said chart is stored in an operation manual of said image processing method in a state folded in said folding portion with the printed surface thereof inward.

10. (Original) An image processing method according to claim 9, wherein said chart is printed with plural same patches in different positions.

11. (Original) An image processing method according to claim 9, wherein the patches printed on said chart are larger in number in the highlight portion than in the shadow portion.

12. (Original) An image processing method according to claim 9, wherein said chart is printed with information indicating that said chart is for calibrating the reading means.

13. (Original) An image processing method according to claim 9, further comprising:

entering density data of each of the patches contained in said chart printed in advance; and

generating said calibration data based on said read data and said density data.

14. (Original) An image processing method according to claim 9, wherein said reading means reads an original image and to output RGB image data.

15. (Original) An image processing method according to claim 9, further comprising:

entering data obtained by reading, with said reading means, a chart image formed by image forming means based on patch data;

correcting said data using said calibration data; and

generating calibration data for calibrating said image forming means based on said corrected data.

16. (Original) An image processing apparatus comprising:

means for generating a calibration condition for image forming means, by reading a first chart formed by said image forming means with reading means and generating a calibration condition for said image forming means, based on the data obtained by said reading;

means for generating a calibration condition for said reading means, using a second chart printed in advance; and

discrimination means for discriminating said first and second charts;

wherein said discrimination means discriminates whether a chart read in each of said means for generating calibration condition for image forming means and said means for generating calibration condition for image reading means is an appropriate chart.

17. (Original) A computer readable recording medium storing a software of an image processing method, the method comprising:

a step of generating a calibration condition for image forming means, by reading a first chart formed by said image forming means with reading means and generating a calibration condition for said image forming means, based on the data obtained by said reading;

a step of generating a calibration condition for said reading means, utilizing a second chart printed in advance; and

a discrimination step of discriminating said first and second charts;

wherein said discrimination step discriminates whether a chart read in each of said step of generating calibration condition for image forming means and said step of generating calibration condition for image reading means is an appropriate chart.

18. (Original) A chart to be used in an image processing method for entering read data obtained by reading a chart printed in advance with reading means and generating calibration data for calibrating said reading means based on said read data;

wherein said chart is rendered foldable with the printed surface thereof inward and is not printed with a patch in the vicinity of the folding portion, and said chart is stored in an operation manual for said image processing method in a state folded in said folding portion with the printed surface thereof inward.